

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 14, 2009. Claims 29 to 38 are in the application, of which Claims 29, 33, 34 and 38 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Turning first to a formal matter, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on August 25, 2009. Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.

Turning to the Office Action, all pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), primarily over U.S. Patent 6,727,999 (Takahashi '999) in view of U.S. Patent 6,985,245 (Takahashi '245). All pending claims have been canceled, and new Claims 29 to 38 substituted therefor. Cancellation is without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections, as set forth in more detail below.

The claims are directed to management of print in accordance with a designated one of at least first and second print modes. In the first print mode, a print instruction is given partly in correspondence with an analysis of each page of a print document, particularly as to whether the page includes color information. In the second print mode, a print instruction is given partly in correspondence to color attribute information included in a job ticket.

The first print mode or the second print mode can be selectively designated by a user, which allows a user to select a print mode in accordance with his objectives. For example, in the first print mode, a print document is analyzed after layout, so as to analyze each page to determine whether the page includes color information. Thus, even in a case where a job ticket has been reused, which might result in alterations to the output layout, it is possible to

execute color/monochromatic printing with accuracy, since the first mode gives a print instruction in part correspondence to an analysis of each page of the print document, and not ordinarily based on color attribute information from the job ticket.

On the other hand, in the second print mode, printing is performed more quickly than in the first print mode, since the print instruction is given in correspondence to color attribute information included in a job ticket. The second print mode is therefore faster than the first print mode, at least ordinarily, since the second print mode normally does not need to refer to an analysis of each page of the print document as to whether the page includes color information. Rather, in the second print mode, the print instruction is given in part correspondence to the color attribute information from the job ticket.

Thus, as set out in the claims herein, a print job is received via a communication medium, wherein the print job includes a job ticket and a print document, and wherein the job ticket describes print instruction information including output layout information and color attribute information. Layout of the print document is performed so as to layout the print document into one or more pages. Layout is performed based on the output layout information included in the print instruction information. Each page of the print document is analyzed as to whether the page includes color information, wherein analysis is performed based on the layout of the print document into one or more pages. Color attribute information included in the job ticket is read.

In response to a user instruction, at least one of first and second print modes is designated. In the first print mode, a print instruction is given in correspondence to the layout of the print document into one or more pages and the analysis of each page of the print document as to whether the page includes color information. On the other hand, in the second

print mode, although the print instruction is also given in correspondence to the layout of the print document into one or more pages, the print instruction is also given in correspondence to color attribute information in the job ticket. The print instruction is thereafter given to a printing apparatus in the mode designated by the user.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing arrangement as set out in the claims herein, particularly as regards to user designation of one of first and second print modes, wherein in the first print mode, a print instruction is given partly in correspondence to analysis of each page of the print document as to whether the page includes color information, and wherein in the second print mode, a print instruction is given partly in correspondence to color attribute information included in a job ticket.

In its rejection of the claims, the Office has taken the position that Takahashi '245 discloses a first print mode that is similar to that claimed herein. As understood by Applicant, however, Takahashi '245 is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything similar to the claimed first print mode. Rather, Takahashi '245 merely shows that a job ticket can include layout information such as seen in Figure 22 thereof, and that a color attribute may be determined based on the unit of an individual page or based on the unit of a job including all pages in the job. Such a determination is shown in Takahashi '245 at Figure 29.

Such a determination is seen by Applicant herein as far different from his claimed first mode. In particular, according to the claimed first mode, a print instruction is given in correspondence to layout of a print document into one or more pages and in correspondence to an analysis of each page of the print document as to whether the page includes color information. Takahashi '245 is not seen to disclose or to suggest such a print mode, in which a print instruction is given as set out in the claims.

Takahashi '999 is seen to describe an automatic mode in which it is determined, for each page, whether or not the page includes color information. Based on such a determination, either one of a monochromatic or a color printer is designated for each page. Takahashi '999 is further seen to describe a manual mode, in which a user is the one responsible for designating printers.

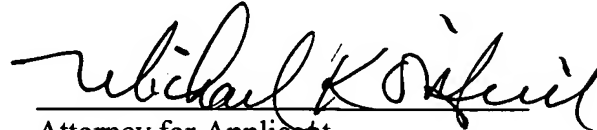
Neither of the automatic mode nor the manual mode of Takahashi '999 is seen to correspond to the claimed first and second print modes. As explained above, in the claimed first print mode, a print instruction is given partly in correspondence to analysis of each page of a print document as to whether the page includes color information. On the other hand, in the second print mode, a print instruction is given partly in correspondence to color attribute information contained in a job ticket. Such print modes are seen to be different to the automatic print mode and manual print mode described by Takahashi '999.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the subject matter claimed herein would not have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, based on the disclosures given in Takahashi '245 and Takahashi '999.

The remaining art applied against the claims has been reviewed, but is not seen to add anything to the above-noted deficiencies in Takahashi '245 and Takahashi '999. Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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